



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 16, 2014 (Second Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

I will lift up my eyes to the hills;

From where shall my help come?

**My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

He will not allow your foot to slip;

He who keeps you will not slumber.

**Behold, He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD is your keeper;

the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

**The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;

He shall preserve your soul.

**The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and even forevermore.**

Thanks be to God for His everlasting, Covenant love.

— from Psalm 121



Christ and Nicodemus On A Rooftop, Henry Ossawa Tanner, d.1937



Made Me Glad

I will bless the Lord forever;
I will trust Him at all times.
He has delivered me from all fear;
He has set my feet upon a rock.
And I will not be moved,
And I'll say of the Lord –

Chorus:

You are my Shield, my Strength,
My portion, Deliverer;
My Shelter, Strong Tower,
My very present Help in time of need.

Verse 2:

Whom have I in heaven but You?
There's none I desire beside You.
And You have made me glad,
I'll say of the Lord –

CCLI Song #3290709 © 2001 Hillsong Publishing; Miriam Webster

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.



This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Public domain. Words, Fanny Crosby, 1873; Music, Phoebe P. Knapp.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord:

God has given us life –

we who were dead in the trespasses and sins in which we once
walked, following the course of this world;
we who were by nature children of wrath,
like the rest of humankind.

But God, being rich in mercy,

**because of His great love with which He loved us,
even when we were dead in our transgressions,
made us alive together with Christ,
and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the
heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He
might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness
toward us in Christ Jesus.**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your
own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no
one may boast.

For God so loved the world,

**that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish,
but have eternal life.**

For God did not send His Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

— from Ephesians 2:1-9; John 3:16-17



How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss!
The Father turns His face away.
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

I will not boast in anything; no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

CCLI Song #1558110 ©1995 Thankyou Music. Stuart Townend

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Pastoral call to confession

Most merciful God, You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding. In creation You fashioned us in Your image; in Christ You reveal Your love; through the Holy Spirit we are born anew and welcomed into community with You and Your people.

Yet we confess that too often we have strayed from Your way.

[Silence]

In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored Your name. [Silence]

Our lives distort Your image, but still You restore it. [Silence]

We often betray Your love, yet still You extend it. [Silence]



We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. In Your great mercy, forgive us – not because we are worthy but for the sake of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us – that we may walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.
(repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world through Him might be saved.

All those who believe in Him are not condemned, because they have believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God, and have loved the Light. They have come to the Light, that they may walk in the truth.

– from Romans 5:8, John 3:17-21



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and expressions of thanksgiving and praise . . .

O the Deep Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward to my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus –
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore.
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own.
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, Love of every love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, For it lifts me up to Thee.
And it lifts me up to glory, For it lifts me up to Thee.

Traditional. Text: Samuel Trevor Francis. Tune: Thomas J. Williams (Hymn tune: EBENEZER);
Setting Ellen Koehler ©2008

THE WORD

John 3:1-17

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ



The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion;
Pure, unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe, Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all Thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

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Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2011.

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (verse 4)

Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2011.

Benediction

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world, be encouraged to observe a holy Lent. Walking in Christ's own footsteps and taking on His likeness, let us remember that this journey of Lent is a journey from death to life.

We go, and we remember, with grateful hearts, to love and serve the Lord. Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“‘We must be persuaded how much God loved us and what type of people we were whom he loved.’ We must be persuaded how much God loved us so that we don't shrink from Him in despair. And we need to be shown also what kind of people we are whom He loved so that we also don't withdraw from Him out of pride. But He dealt with us so that we could profit from His strength, and, in the weakness of humility, our holiness could be perfected. One of the Psalms implies this. It says, ‘Thou, O God, didst send a spontaneous rain, whereby Thou didst make Thine inheritance perfect, when it was weary.’ The ‘spontaneous rain’ is grace given freely and not according to merit. He didn't give it because we were worthy, but because He willed. Knowing this, we shouldn't trust in ourselves. That is what is meant by being made ‘weak.’ However, He perfects us and says to the Apostle Paul, ‘My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.’ We, then, must be persuaded how much God loved us and what type of people we were whom He loved. The former is important, lest we despair; the latter, lest we become proud.”

– Augustine

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11;
John 4:5-42

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Sunday mornings at The Carmichael Chapel, 4600 Winding Way
(Corner of Winding Way and Pasadena), Sacramento, CA 95841.
Informal gathering: 10:00 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM.

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